Volume 20 No. 6 October 2009

WORKS IN PROGRESS

ESTABLISHED IN 1990 BY THE THURSTON COUNTY RAINBOW COALITION

State to curb protest against the State

Demonstrators could be arrested for gathering to "communicate information or ideas"

By Patty Imani and Nigel Weiss

Washington State General Administration (GA) has proposed a set of changes to Washington Administrative Code (WAC) that would make holding political demonstrations more difficult, and have a chilling effect on assembly and free speech in public spaces. The changes, if adopted, would require that gatherings of 25 or more be issued a permit from GA to use public spaces over which GA exercises custody and control. These include all the Capitol grounds, as well as Capitol Lake and Sylvester Park downtown. According to the proposal published by GA, violating this new rule may result in "appropriate law enforcement action."

The GA Administrator's, as well as our Attorney General's, office (overseen by Republican Rob McKenna) have carried out a deceptive media campaign to confuse the public by presenting misleading information claiming the newly proposed rules offer less regulation of public assembly than current rules. This is simply untrue. Currently, there are two single regulations within the WA Administrative Code 236-12 -- which deal specifically with State Capitol Grounds Traffic and Parking Regulations -- that touch on demonstrations. These rules necessitate the free flow of traffic, and therefore require permits for parades, processions or demonstrations to allow for the free flow of traffic, and ease logistical planning on Capitol grounds.

Yet, what the GA has done is devise an entire new chapter of regulations (WAC 236-17) that specifically focuses on and restricts First Amendment activities. The proposed rules manage not parking and traffic, but restrict public assembly and expression.

Further, the proposed rules move for law enforcement response where individuals exercise their First Amendment Right activities outside of the agency's guidelines.

The first section of the proposed rules (WAC 236-17-100) clearly states the purpose of the chapter as regulating "the use of the public areas of the capitol buildings and grounds by the public for free speech and assembly activities", defining "Free speech and assembly activity" as "an activity for the purpose of communicating information or ideas..." and "Activity" as "one or more people gathering for a common purpose or cause."

In addition, the proposed rules lump the exercise of First Amendment activities with commercial and private activities. First Amendment rights are the highest laws: the peoples' civil rights sit far above any rule regulating private or commercial enterprise. Clearly, the proposed rules don't serve the public interests, where the first interests of the public are their freedom to exercise their civil rights guaranteed by the constitution. It is this exercise that distinguishes a democratic society from a police state.

Recently, states have legally maneuvered for overt infringement on First Amendment activities in requiring permits for the people to assemble -- by stating needs of "public safety." However, Washington State will find it difficult to present rational arguments before a federal court showing how one individual holding a silent vigil for 15 consecutive days -- as would be expressly forbidden by the proposed changes -- threatens public safety, or how a meeting of citizens in a public park, to peacefully vigil immediately following an aggressive military attack on a sovereign nation, threatens public safety.

Clearly, our state's General Administration agency and our Attorney General's office have great imaginations. Apparently they believe the First Amendment reads: "Congress shall make no law...prohibiting... the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the government for a redress of grievances - under the condition the people do not number greater than 24 individuals and the exercise of these rights by any number of individuals do not exceed fourteen days in duration." Yet, this is what proposed WAC 236-17 would mandate: a criminalization of First Amendment activities.

> Exercise your First Amendment rights despite repressive 'rules'.

Not only do the proposed changes impugn our First Amendment right to free speech and assembly, but they violate the WA State Regulatory Reform Act of 1995 by superseding the state legislature in a matter directly relevant to the public. The Regulatory Reform Act of 1995, c 403(2)(a) states that "substantial policy decisions affecting the public be made by those directly accountable to the public, namely the legislature." Clearly, the proposed rules are outside the jurisdiction of a state agency.

The Washington State Legislature, in passing the regulatory reform act of 1995, enacted Chapter 403 in part to protect the public against the stifling of legitimate activities (1995 c 403, section 2). The act was written to restrict administrative agency from imposing "excessive, unreasonable, or unnecessary obligations that detrimentally affects the well-being of our citizens" [1995 c 403 (1) (c)].

The Regulatory Reform Act of 1995 also mandates that "members of the public have adequate opportunity to challenge administrative rules with which they have legitimate concerns through meaningful review of the rule by the executive, the legislature, and the judiciary." However, the Dept. of General Administration has set a timeline to allow for the quick adoption of these proposed rules by limiting the time allowed for public comments. Tragically, the very agency proposing these repressive rules determines when public testimony opposing the rules will be shut down. The public should assert their rights by ignoring the GA imposed deadline of Oct. 1 and continue to do one or all of the below in opposition of WAC 236-17:

> Call upon your state legislative representatives and the Governor to intercede. Ask that they do their job and represent your interests by opposing these amendments.

Exercise your First Amendment-protected rights despite repressive and unconstitutional "rules."

Continue to send comments to GA opposing WAC 236-17, and call the agency to withdraw the proposed rules. Send copy of those comments to your legislative representatives, the governor and the media.

Call upon your state legislative representatives and the Governor to intercede. Ask that they do their job and represent your interests and join you in moving that GA proposed WAC chapter 236-17 not be adopted where it restricts First Amendment activities.

Here are a set of talking points you can use in your letter and comments. These points were prepared by Nigel Weiss of OMJP after reading the GA proposed WAC 236-17.

- The First Amendment of the Constitution states, "Congress shall make no law respecting...the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the government for a redress of grievances." The proposed changes to WAC would challenge the people's protected freedom of assembly by putting public gatherings and demonstrations under the review of the Washington GA. Under the proposed changes, the GA could use the permitting process to regulate the time and duration of public gatherings, set caps on the number of people attending unpermitted gatherings, and restrict gatherings to certain places only. Even passive expressions of First Amendment rights exercised by an individual would be limited in duration (for instance, any individual holding vigil for more that 14 consecutive days would face state law enforcement action under WAC 236-17).

- The proposed new WAC rules fly against WA Regulatory Reform Act of 1995, expressed in RCW 34.05.328 which states that "...substantial policy decisions affecting the public [should] be made by those directly accountable to the public, namely the legislature..." and that "rules imposing obligations on the public...are truly in the public interest." Even if the proposed administrative policy changes weren't unconstitutional, they would still violate state law that GA is supposed to abide by.

- There are not enough free public spaces in downtown Olympia as it is. Places for members of the public to assemble and freely associate are vital in a functioning democracy. GA shouldn't further quell the people's ability to assemble by placing restrictions on groups exercising their protected free-speech rights in public areas.

- The proposed set of changes would likely not be enforced equally. The "free speech and assembly activity" the rules would regulate includes anything "for the purpose of communicating information or ideas to others that are intended to or are likely to draw the attention, attendance, or participation of others. Free speech and assembly activities may include, but are not limited to, assemblies, marches, rallies, performances, community events, press conferences, demonstrations, celebrations, ceremonies, speeches and other similar expressive activities." This broad definition could include anything from an anti-war march to a school field trip to a large family picnic, but it is probably more likely that the state would take "appropriate law enforcement action" against anti-war demonstrators than school kids or families for not getting a permit. Individuals could be denied permit according to their political ideology.

For more analysis of these proposed changes, see pages 4 and 5.

Proposed changes to rules regarding Capitol Campus demonstrations

Submitted by Mike Coday

Key: (( )) indicates language to be altered. Underline text indicates proposed rule change.

AMENDATORY SECTION

WAC 236-12-430 Demonstrations, parades -- Obstructing traffic, state business -- Prohibiting. No person (([,])) singly, or in combination with others, shall engage in demonstrations ((~~or~~)), parades, or other similar activities in such a manner as to disrupt the orderly flow of pedestrian or vehicular traffic on the state capitol grounds or the conduct of state business by state employees on the state capitol grounds or in any buildings on the state capitol grounds.

WAC 236-12-440 Permits for demonstrations, parades, processions. ((~~Any~~)) In order not to disrupt the orderly flow of pedestrian or vehicular traffic on the state capitol grounds, a person or group of persons desiring to conduct a demonstration, parade(([,])) or procession of twenty-five or more people on the state capitol grounds shall apply to the ((~~director~~)) department for ((~~written approval~~)) a permit using the process outlined in chapter 236-17 WAC. ((~~Application must be made, in writing, at least four days, excluding Saturdays, Sundays and holidays, prior to the time the demonstration, parade, or procession is to take place.~~))

Some excerpts from the new WAC Chapter that are driving these changes:

WAC 236-17-100 - Do I need to apply for a permit? A permit is required for free speech and assembly activities that are reasonably expected to involve twenty-five or more people.

WAC 236-17-220 -Activities may not disrupt the conduct of government business. No activity may disrupt, conflict with, or interfere with the normal conduct of any state business, meeting, or proceeding.

WAC 236-17-300 - People are welcome to exercise their rights to free speech and assembly. People are welcome to exercise their rights to free speech and assembly at the capitol buildings and grounds

WAC 236-17-320 - General administration may set reasonable time, place, and manner limits on free speech and assembly activities.

Orwell would be proud of this work.

CONTACT INFO

Proposed Rule Text:
http://apps.leg.wa.gov/documents/laws/wsr/2009/17/09-17-130.htm

GA Comment Page:
https://fortress.wa.gov/ga/apps/RuleComment/Default.aspx?a=3

Olympia (District 22) House Rep Brendan Williams / Sam Hunt
E-mail: *williams.brendan@leg.wa.gov* , Phone: (360) 786-7940
Email: *hunt.sam@leg.wa.gov* , Phone: 360) 786-7992

District 22 Senator Karen Fraser
E-mail: *fraser.karen@leg.wa.gov* , Phone: (360) 786-7642 , Fax: (360) 786-1999

State Legislature Rep Contact Info:
http://apps.leg.wa.gov/DistrictFinder/Default.aspx

Give Governor Gregoire's Office a Call:
Governor's Office Phone: 360-902-4111
http://www.governor.wa.gov/contact/

Nigel Weiss and Patty Imani are members of Olympia Movement for Justice and Peace.

WORKS IN PROGRESS

Works In Progress is a free, volunteer-operated progressive community newspaper based in Olympia, Washington. Opinions expressed do not necessarily reflect those of *Works In Progress* and are solely those of the authors.

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Please send text as Word attachments. Artwork and photos can be sent electronically or we can scan them for you as camera-ready/black & white.

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WIP reserves the right to publish in whole or part all submissions. For editing purposes, please enclose your phone number.

Articles may be reprinted. Please cite source.

If you don't see your issue being covered in Works In Progress*, it's because you aren't writing about it! (Or aren't finding someone else to cover it!)*

Send submissions to *olywip@gmail* or mail to Works In Progress, PO Box 295, Olympia, WA 98507-0295.

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Back Issues
Some back issues are available in the Timberland Library system. *WIP* is being archived on microfilm by the UW Library.

HELP!

Works In Progress is in need of a new photo-wrangler, to lasso up some photos for us on a monthly basis. If you're of the photo-taking persuasion and would like to make the pages of this humble volunteer publication a little brighter, e-mail us at olywip@gmail.com to find out how you can help us bring some life to these ol' grey walls of text.

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ANNOUNCEMENTS/EVENTS

March against war on 8th anniversary of invasion of Afghanistan

Wednesday Oct. 7, 3:30 pm
Begins at Woodruff Park, on Olympia's west side, at the corner of Harrison Ave. and Thomas Ave.

A coalition of Olympia anti-war and community organizations will hold a rally and march on October 7th to demonstrate against the war in Afghanistan. The date will mark the US invasion's 8th anniversary. The march is part of a worldwide outcry against war and imperialism. The October 7th Coalition includes the organizations Project for Liberation Through Education and Action (PLEA), Parents Organizing for Welfare and Economic Rights, Food Not Bombs, Fellowship of Reconciliation, Mideast Solidarity Project, Evergreen Socialist Alternative, Olympia Movement for Justice and Peace, Olympia Iraq Veterans Against the War, and the Olympia Street Medic Collective.

People will gather at Woodruff Park on the west side, at the corner of Harrison Ave. and Thomas Ave. at 3:30 pm. After a rally and a few speakers, there will be a march across the west side.

Both the rally and march will be entirely family-friendly and inclusive. The speakers will include Parents Organizing for Welfare and Economic Rights coordinator Monica Peabody, and US Army Veteran Seth Manzel of IVAW. During the march, several local poets and musicians will perform. Food will be provided at no cost by Food not Bombs.

Olympia POWER Outage - Last Will and Testament Party

Monday Oct. 5, 5:30-8 pm
First United Methodist Church,
1224 Legion Way SE

As we approach Halloween and Day of the Dead, let's consider that though many of us can't afford an attorney, we may still want legal documents naming guardians for our kids, health care directives, or what to do with our belongings.

Join POWER on the evening of Oct. 5, and learn how to write your own will. We'll provide the forms, examples of wills of famous people, and maybe even a real attorney.

POWER (Parents Organizing for Welfare and Economic Rights) is an organization of low-income parents and allies advocating for a strong social safety net while working toward a world where children and care giving are truly valued, and the devastation of poverty has been eradicated.

POWER Outage is a monthly get-together in Olympia for POWER and community members. It happens on the first Monday of each month, starting at 5:30 pm with a potluck meal, and ends at 8.

Children are always welcome. We will have on-site childcare or activities for the whole family.

For more information, contact POWER at:
701 Franklin Street SE Olympia, WA 98501
360-352-9716 toll free 866-343-9716
welfarerights@riseup.net
http://www.oly-wa.us/power/
http://www.myspace.com/parentsorganizing
http://www.facebook.com/pages/Parents-Organizing-for-Welfare-and-Economic-Rights/

Poor Peoples' Candidates Forum

Thursday Oct. 22, 5:30-8 pm
First United Methodist Church,
1224 Legion Way SE

Curious about what Olympia City Council candidates plan to do for poor people? Interested in the candidates' stance on issues of housing and homelessness? Here is your chance to ask them. Candidates will be on hand to answer your questions in a two-hour question-and-answer format.

Join members of POWER, Parents Organizing for Welfare and Economic Rights, Thursday, October 22nd, 6-8 pm, or come at 5:30 and have dinner with us. POWER will provide dinner and childcare. *You* provide the questions.

Want to help cook or set up? Questions? Contact POWER at 360-352-9716 or welfarerights@riseup.net.

Counter-protest outside Planned Parenthood

Saturday Oct. 3, 10 am - 2 pm and
Saturday Oct. 17, 10 am - 2 pm
Outside Planned Parenthood, at the corner of Legion and Adams in downtown Olympia

Olympians support reproductive choice! Please join us as we counterprotest the "40 Days for Life" vigil outside of Planned Parenthood. If you are as fed up as we are with gory, misleading pictures of late term abortions (which are not performed at Planned Parenthood in Olympia) and lunatics who argue that birth control leads to abortion, please join us! Saturday, October 3 and Saturday October 17, officially starting at 10 am and going until 2 pm, but everyone should feel free to show up anytime. We will have signs available, but feel free to bring your own.

Peace Works 2009: A Celebration of the Olympia-Rafah Solidarity Mural Project

Saturday Oct. 17, All day

The Rachel Corrie Foundation for Peace and Justice and Break the Silence Mural Project present Peace Works 2009: A celebration of the Olympia-Rafah Solidarity Mural Project (ORSMP).

Join us to celebrate the creation of the ORSMP with a day and evening of food, music, discussion, procession, and celebration of the contributions and connections made with those who work for peace through justice in our community and beyond.

11:00 am - 5:30 pm: Conference, discussion, lunch at United Churches, 110 11th Ave SE, Olympia. Program includes discussions with mural's creators, presentations from recent delegations to Gaza, a puppet show, and creative art activities for everyone. Cost: $25.00/15.00 students & low income

5:30 – 6:30: Break

6:30 – Procession through downtown to mural, with Oly Samba. Assemble at Procession Studio (311 Capitol). Cost: Free!

7:00 – 9:00: Unveiling and Celebration at the Mural, at the corner of Capitol & State. Cost: Free!

For more info, email becca@rachelcorriefoundation.org, or call (360) 754-3998

Derrick Jensen - "Civilization and Resistance"

Thursday Oct. 15, 7:30pm
University of Puget Sound, Tacoma

Derrick Jensen will be giving his "Civilization and Resistance" talk at the University of Puget Sound. The talk will be at Schneebeck Concert Hall at 7:30 pm. The event is co-sponsored by Fertile Ground. Cost is $5 students/$10 general public. Tickets will be available at the door and available for purchase at the Info Desk in Wheelock Student Center on the UPS campus beginning around October 1. For more information, email mdjones@pugetsound.edu.

Vigil at Northwest Detention Center

Saturday Oct. 10, 12-3 pm
1623 E. J Street, on Tacoma's industrial tideflats

Join us every second Saturday of every month from 12 noon to 3 pm as we maintain protest of the Northwest Detention Center. This private profit-making prison holds immigrants that the federal government is holding for deportation. It is overcrowded, and conditions are bad. It's at 1623 E. "J" Street in the industrial tideflats area east of downtown Tacoma. Join us, and participate in the vigil for human rights. Some volunteers also bring food and offer support to people visiting detainees. Carpools leave from Grocery Outlet on W. Harrison (near Division) at 11:00 am. To confirm info, contact: bridgesnotwalls@riseup.net.

Vandana Shiva speaks about "Soil Not Oil"

Thursday Oct. 15, 6:30-9:30 pm
South Puget Sound's Minnaert Hall
2011 Mottman Road SW, Olympia

Dr. Vandana Shiva, a world-renowned physicist, environmental leader and activist, will speak at a 6:30-9:30 pm event at the Minnaert Center at South Puget Sound Community College, 2011 Mottman Road SW, Olympia. She has written about sustainable agriculture, genetically modified organisms, water privatization, global inequality, eco-feminism, and other topics. She has received a great many awards. She wrote, "The primary threat to nature and people today comes from centralising and monopolising power and control. Not until diversity is made the logic of production will there be a chance for sustainability, justice and peace. Cultivating and conserving diversity is no luxury in our times: It is a survival imperative." Don't miss this special event! Doors open at 6:30 pm. A donation of $15 or more is requested. This event is sponsored by SPSCC's student group Building Revolution by Increasing Community Knowledge, or BRICK. For more info, visit www.spsccbrick.org.

Planned Parenthood under '40 day' siege

By Phoebe Blanding

Planned Parenthood is under siege. Ongoing Friday protests by a group proclaiming to "Show the Truth" have disgusted pedestrians and motorists alike with graphic, misleading signs depicting the bloody by-products of late term abortions for years now. And for the fifth time, Olympia is being invaded by a group that calls themselves "40 Days for Life", and yes, they will be there, right outside our local Planned Parenthood, for 40 days, since Sept. 23, until Nov. 1.

"40 Days for Life," an international organization targeting Planned Parenthood, began in Texas in the late 1990s. "Pray and fast to end abortion" their website says, but the campaign involves more protesting and less praying and fasting as far as I can tell. The website says that there will be "campaigns" in 212 cities, up from 177 last time around. They've got a group on Facebook, and they have an email list that updates supporters daily about all the "saved babies" -- if a pregnant woman is deterred from entering Planned Parenthood, they consider it a victory, though they have no way of knowing if she will have her abortion performed elsewhere or not. However, I'm not entirely sure what their definition of babies is, or pregnancy, since they told me as I was going into Planned Parenthood to make a donation that "Birth control leads to abortion!" The website brags that they have shut down three abortion clinics with their presence but they appear entirely oblivious to the potentially dire consequences of taking away a women's health clinic where birth control and other medical services – like pap smears -- can be obtained.

> They appear oblivious to the dire consequences of taking away a women's health clinic.

I don't think most Olympians like these protests. On Sept. 18, three of my friends and I, all high school students, went down to the corner of Legion and Adams in downtown Olympia and held up our own signs. Our signs were handmade, not mass-produced and glossy like theirs. Ours didn't have any gory pictures on them and we weren't calling those who disagreed with us murderers or spawn of the devil.

The worst thing we called them was prudes, after hearing about how we were "being used" and how they would "pray to God we would understand." None of us felt too bad about it.

Yes, some people honked for their signs, but they were in the minority, and the majority was, frankly, vast. I was expecting something else when I went out there and held up a sign reading "My body is not your baby factory" and another reading "My body, my choice." I had sort of prepared myself to hear all about what a slut I was from people all too preoccupied by whether or not teenaged girls are having sex and I was sort of expecting people to feel too awkward to honk their support of Planned Parenthood in front of the dour-faced sign holders. What happened was entirely different.

At first we thought it was just good luck; the first cars that drove by and gave any reaction waved at us, grinning. But as the support from drivers passing by continued, we realized it wasn't good luck; it was the fact that Olympia has more support to show for us (young women who will probably need birth control at some point in our lives, unless we want to have 12-15 children) than they had support for middle-aged men and a few elderly women with their signs screaming "Murder!"

As I saw how many people were waving at us, honking, smiling, thumbs-upping and calling to us out their car windows, I began to wonder why there were only four of us there. These were just the people driving by, who had no idea we would even be here, and if we had taken them all out of their cars and given them signs, we would have had an amazing protest. We began to talk about the upcoming "40 Days for Life" vigil, which was scheduled to start the following Wednesday (Sept. 23). Why did we let the anti-choicers have the only say? Surely they didn't think they represented Olympia! How could they think that after seeing everyone cheering us on, an obvious majority?

The "Truth truck," outside Planned Parenthood in Olympia. Photo by Janet Blanding.

Well, if you thought about it, it didn't matter if they were the *only* people who felt that way in all of Thurston County. If they got out there and no one showed up to voice their disagreement, they became Olympia's sole voice. But these folks are more like one man yelling at the top of his lungs than an angry crowd chanting, and we didn't like it. That's why we were there. Still, it was obvious that other Olympians like us thought that these people were seriously wrong. Where were they?

It's hardly fair to say that no one is willing to come and show their support if you haven't actually asked them to, so we decided to organize a rally. We wanted to show Olympia and the people in it that this town was chock full of people who hated that this tiny group with their great big gory signs got to speak for Olympia. We started planning a counter-protest that day, trusting that Olympians would support us with their presence, sharing our support for Planned Parenthood and our frustration at the way these people with their signs were trying to drown out the voices of real Olympians who didn't agree with them. We don't believe that most people take it lightly when the anti-choicers call 43 percent of U.S. women murderers and baby killers. (It is estimated that 43 percent of U.S. women will have had an abortion by age 45.)

We set the date for our counter-protests on Oct. 3 and Oct. 17, starting officially at 10 am and going to 2 pm, but everyone should feel free to show up any time. If you feel that all of the many services Planned Parenthood offers are important to the lives and health of women, I hope you can make it to one of our protests, and if you can't that you will find another way to show your support, like making a donation to Planned Parenthood or any other group that helps women anywhere in the world to make their own reproductive choices.

Phoebe Blanding is a junior at Avanti High School in Olympia.

Olympia contributes to Econvergence in Portland

by South Sound Econvergence

Within an economy we can't control and in an environment becoming more inhospitable, the struggle for justice and reclamation of our livelihoods becomes increasingly complex. A conference in Portland, Oregon seeks alternatives and solutions to the numerous difficulties we face.

From Oct. 2-4, a coalition of groups ranging from workers' unions, community sustainability builders, colleges and churches will host the Econvergence -- a regional gathering intended to "explore the way forward out of the twin crises [economic and ecological] challenging humanity."

Featuring 91 free panels and plenaries over the three-day period, the gathering will be held at the First Unitarian Church and Portland State University. The gathering will also feature art exhibits, rally and march opportunities, poetry readings, worker-owned cooperatives, farmers and market tours of Portland, a play and the worldwide film premiere of "Plunder" by Danny Schechter.

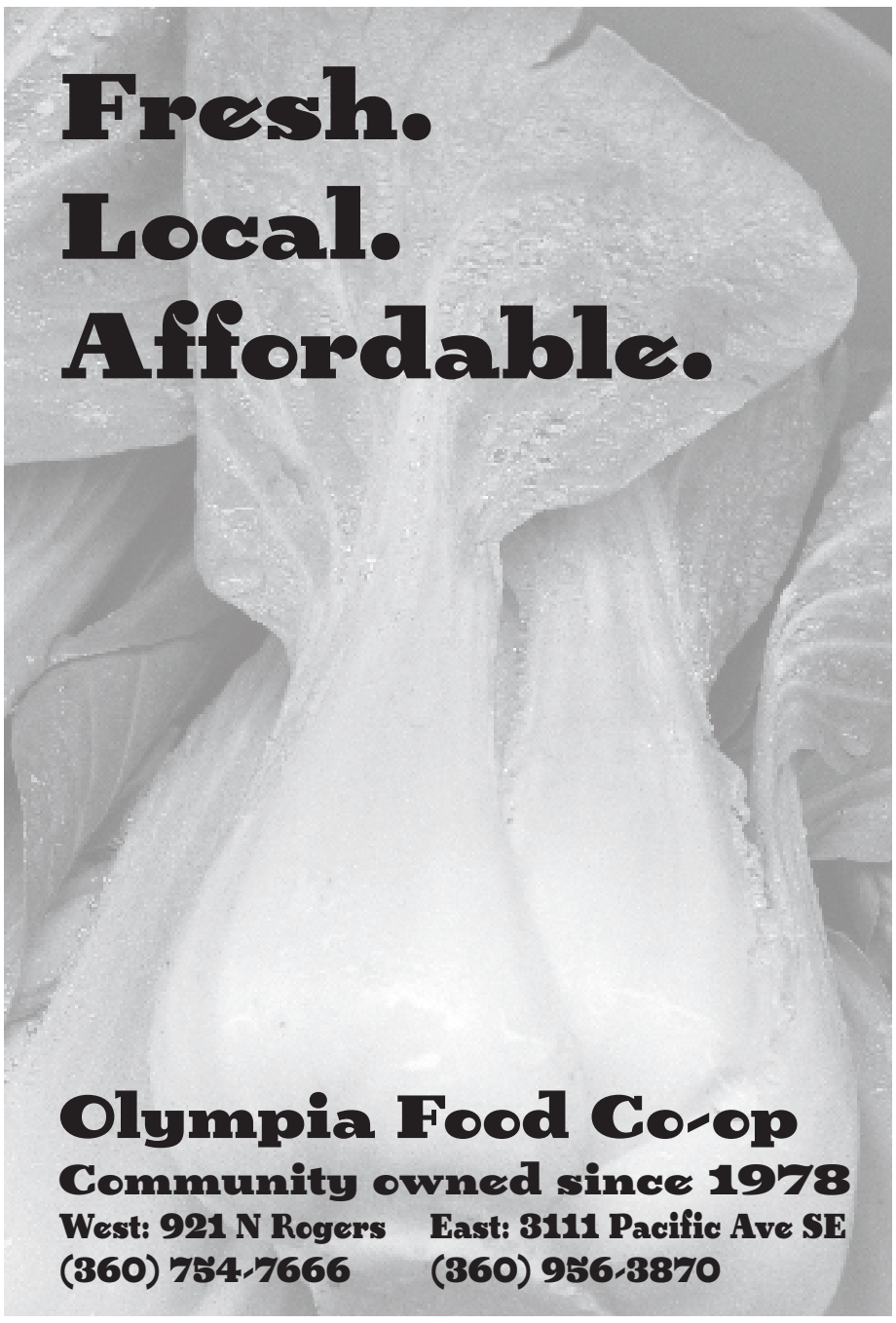
Keynote speaker Noam Chomsky, a significant author and foreign policy critic, will be featured Friday night with tickets ranging from $20-60. Saturday night will feature author Derrick Jensen with tickets ranging from $10-30.

A considerable amount of Olympia-based participation was involved in pre-conference organizing and this fact is reflected in the substantial amount of local area speakers present in the panels.

To help people attend this conference, several carpool departure times have been publicized to meet at the Harrison and Division intersection (where Grocery Outlet is). These departure times include 8 am and 3 pm Friday, and 8 am Saturday. Drivers are encouraged to come as there has been much rider demand for all three time slots.

The 3 pm Friday timeslot will feature an Olympia community bus that needs $5 from each rider to cover gas for both the ride there and the drive back. The return trip from Portland for the bus is scheduled for a Sunday evening departure.

Hope to see you there!



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Conversation on proposed rule altering Capitol Campus demonstrations

by Mike Coday

The Washington State Department of General Administration announced proposed rule changes regarding demonstrations on Capitol Campus grounds Sept. 2. Local activist Patty Imani brought the rule changes to the attention of the local activist community. The proposed rule changes were announced with a comment period set to end Sept. 22. A public hearing regarding the rule change took place on Sept. 22 also. The Department was scheduled to consider comments submitted by Sept. 22 and testimony to finalize rule changes in an October-to-December time frame but bowed to numerous requests for extension of the comment deadline and decided to accept comments through Oct. 1.

The rules appear to be designed to limit the exercise of free speech along with the right to assemble and seek redress of grievance. I invited Patty Imani, Drew Hendricks and Larry Hildes to join me in a conversation about the existing rules and the proposed changes. Drew is an activist who monitors authoritarian society and is active with Olympia Cop Watch, Larry is the attorney of choice for most of the activist community in the Puget Sound Region. Patty Imani was involved in the conversation but chose not to be quoted.

> This rule would completely prevent spontaneous protest, which is necessary to allow the people to respond to sudden events and immediate crises.

Works in Progress: The proposed rules, and the existing rules, for that matter, appear to be a significant interference with the right of a person or group of people to engage in demonstrations and free speech. The Capitol buildings and grounds include such locations as the Capitol Campus, Heritage Park, Marathon Park, Centennial Park, Sylvester Park, the Old Capitol Building, the surface and shores of Capitol Lake, and Deschutes Parkway, so these rule changes have impact on a large area of public space. How would these proposed rules change the way that demonstrations take place here in the local community? How different are the proposed rules from what is currently in place?

Drew Hendricks: The rules in place change a long-standing tradition of holding events without a permit at Sylvester Park, including gatherings of more than 25 people which turn into marches through the streets of downtown Olympia. Since Sylvester Park is a state/Capitol Campus property and not a City of Olympia park in the usual sense, the campus rules contemplated could be applied (probably selectively) for groups which the police do not like, who will not or cannot apply for a permit and provide a person to be "responsible" for the actions of others who randomly show up to the event.

Examples: The "Anarchists" held an event in December 2008 which was first a gathering at Sylvester Park, then a march through the streets of Olympia. I know that the police were worried about this event ahead of time, because they became extremely aggressive with me as I was watching them at their base, around 3 p.m. in the afternoon, hours before the march. They demanded to know what I knew about the event that night, and were more than casually present to supervise or dissuade the event when it occurred. A detective was assigned to videotape the event participants as they marched, without any imminent or ongoing criminal activity among the marchers to justify his behavior. The detective then lost the videotape and never provided it when I requested it as a public document. Police arrested two participants for being involved in the march, assuming that they had broken some windows found shattered many blocks away from the march immediately afterward.

If this proposed rule had been in place, the police would likely have moved to arrest persons for gathering in the park prior to any march through the streets. There were 35 - 50 participants in the gathering prior to the march.

Second example: On Nov. 15, 2008, a group of Port Militarization Resistance participants and supporters marched to commemorate the events of Nov. 2007, in solidarity with women being prosecuted by the State of Washington. This group also gathered (Patty Imani confirmed that a permit was requested and granted) in Sylvester Park, and then marched through the streets to the Port of Olympia.

Under the proposed rules, I would assume that this group might have been denied a permit by the State of Washington because it explicitly involved support for persons arrested and beaten by Olympia police in Nov. 2007 - and the day of the march just happened to be the same day the OPD had killed a man in Lacey (Jose Ramirez-Jimenez). I have photos of the increased numbers of police patrolling the event. It has been common practice for groups to request a permit for Sylvester Park so that the General Administration personnel turn on the power at the gazebo, and unlock the fence at the gazebo so that it can legally be accessed.

Normally, if one does not plan amplified sound one does not bother to go through the process of obtaining a permit to gather in the park. These rules would change that and increase the amount of pre-event review.

Larry Hildes: I agree with Drew, that this rule would severely restrict access to traditional public forums for First Amendment purposes and severely restrict the ability of the people of Washington to petition the State Government for redress of grievances. Sylvester Park has traditionally been a location for spontaneous protests, and a gathering point. Marches have traditionally chosen spontaneously to go to the Capitol Campus, which is a very large area well able to handle massive protest without disruption to access, or to government function.

The State has demonstrated no need requiring the enaction of such rules. They tried this six years ago, and then Governor Gary Locke withdrew the rule conceding that it was inconsistent with the First Amendment. This rule would completely prevent spontaneous protest, which is necessary to allow the people to respond to sudden events and immediate crises, thus chilling everyone's rights. In addition, it requires the organizers of any event to know how many people will show up, something that is far less than an exact science. This rule would further give the State Patrol the discretion to disrupt and arrest participants in any event that doesn't meet their narrow criteria. Since Sylvester Park is the functional equivalent of a town square for Olympia in a visible public location on the major street of entry to Downtown Olympia from the freeway, this rule would serve to severely limit protected speech.

Streets, sidewalk, parks, and town squares, as well as the halls of government are the traditional public fora and merit the highest level of protection under the First Amendment. This is not that level of protection, and this rule would likely be found and should be found unconstitutional.

WIP: What penalties or charges could a person face for violating these rules (if they are adopted) or the existing rules regarding demonstrations at the Capitol Campus, Capitol Lake, Sylvester Park and the other areas subject to these rules? Would these rules simply give law enforcement the authority to tell crowds to disperse as

▸ CONVERSATION continued on Page 5

U.S. economy needs better solutions to problems

by Peter Bohmer

In the short-run, it is very likely that a total financial collapse was averted and that the free fall in the United States of Gross Domestic Production (GDP) and employment has come to an end.

There will probably be an increase in GDP for the third quarter of 2009 and most mainstream economists and the media will say that the recession is over. This will be true in the way that recession is officially defined. However, in the more important sense of people's economic lives, employment is likely to continue falling or increase at a rate slower than the increase in population: unemployment, measured and unmeasured, is likely to continue growing. Given the high rates of unemployment, underemployment and the lack of bargaining power of workers, real wages are likely to continue to fall as are employee benefits. Given the continued budget deficits of most states and cities, public employees are also facing a future in the short run of no wage increases.

Public services will continue to deteriorate. Housing foreclosures are likely to continue at a high rate. Poverty and unemployment will remain high. As Barbara Ehrenreich and Dedrick Muhammad pointed out in the *New York Times* (Sept. 13), an economic depression was created in the Black community in the last two years and is likely to persist. In communities based on manufacturing and construction there has also been an economic depression with no end in sight.

The 2009 stimulus package of the Obama Administration, although smaller than desirable and somewhat misdirected, has had a positive effect in stimulating output, employment and in averting a full-scale economic depression. The other part of economic policy that began under Bush and continued by Obama is the injection of huge infusions of money into failing banks, and financial institutions such as AIG and Fannie Mae. Without these infusions, these institutions would have gone bankrupt. However, far cheaper and more economically just policies such as direct mortgage relief to homeowners, nationalizing financial institutions with the purpose of providing credit to support people in need and desirable investment by businesses, cooperatives and public investment were not considered. This is because of the power of Wall Street and the extreme capitalist ideology of the Democrats and Republicans.

A generalized economic depression was averted in the short run but with the likelihood that another and possibly even more severe financial collapse and recession/depression is likely to reoccur in the not too distant future. The necessary structural changes in the economy and significant financial regulation that would provide some economic stability and reduced financial speculation are increasingly remote.

There are different social structures of accumulation that shape capitalist development. The one that has structured the U.S. economy and global economy for the last 30 years is neoliberal -- marked by growing inequality of income and wealth, privatization, deregulation of corporations and finance within and between borders, and the dominance of financial capital.

> Besides being obscene, this inequality means that the majority will continue to go increasingly into debt to buy what they need.

The financial bubble and near collapse were the non-surprising outcomes of this financialization. A new social structure of accumulation is being promoted by liberal economists such as Robert Reich, Jamie Galbraith, Paul Krugman and Joseph Stiglitz. It would incorporate much tighter regulation of finance, universal health care, massive public investment in rail, mass transit and green technology, public subsidies for the development of alternatives to oil based energy systems, increased public spending for education and for reducing poverty, some increases in taxes on the wealthy and restrictions on executive income. It is what Van Jones in his book, *Green Collar Economy*, has called a Green New Deal. Others have called it Green Keynesianism. This would still be capitalism and would not end exploitation and poverty, militarism and imperialism, nor environmental destruction and alienation. We would still need to replace an unjust and unsustainable economic system. It would not end economic depression and the business cycle. However, this Green New Deal would reduce the probability of another even worse financial collapse and severe economic recession/depression in the next few years. It would even be in the interests of non-financial corporations. While clearly being insufficient for economic, social and environmental justice, it would provide a social structure of accumulation for reducing unemployment and increasing, somewhat, economic equality.

The conditions for a future financial bubble and collapse were not altered. Wall Street has not been restrained. It is highly unlikely that even in the midst of the worst recession/depression since the 1930s that financial derivatives and the casino economy will be meaningfully regulated. The economic system is still very fragile and highly leveraged with debt. Although unlikely in the immediate future, the financial system could quickly unravel if the market for securities in commercial mortgages or another type of securitized asset (bond) collapses. The top 10 percent of the population now have an income equal to the bottom 90 percent of the population; the 13,000 households with the highest incomes have an income equal to the 40 million with the lowest incomes. (*Left Business Observer* #120). Besides being obscene, this inequality means that the majority of people will continue to go increasingly into debt to buy what they need. Consumer debt will grow.

The so-called economic recovery we will increasingly be hearing about will be a jobless recovery. Employment will probably start growing no later than summer 2010 but unemployment and underemployment will stay high. Unless wages grow significantly, which will not happen unless there is a huge growth in the militancy and strength of the labor movement, consumption spending will be restrained, limiting the growth of employment. Manufacturing will continue to decline, the quality of life for the majority and global warming will worsen unless we rise up and organize and revolt.

The possibility of growing social movements is real and hopeful. The Obama Presidential campaign has led to an increased interest, especially by young people and Black people in public affairs and social change. The gloss of Obama's victory is wearing off. The U.S. occupation of Afghanistan is increasingly unpopular at home. So is the frustration and anger at the absence of meaningful healthcare reform. The limitations of what President Obama can or wants to do are becoming more apparent every day.

Just like the expectations raised by John Kennedy and the limitations of the reforms he proposed spurring massive activism in the 1960s, this can happen again now. Let us build and connect movements and issues as we organize and struggle for significant, meaningful reforms and revolution.

Don't Mourn, Organize!

Si Se Puede!

Peter Bohmer is an economics professor at The Evergreen State College and a longtime Olympia organizer and resident. He will be speaking on three panels at the Econvergence in Portland, including "HOW Should We Respond to the Economic and Ecological Crisis?"

▸ **CONVERSATION** continued from page 4

an enforcement of the rules and would the crime be failure to comply with a lawful order? Or some variation on creating a public nuisance or disorderly conduct?

LH: It would be the same offenses as now for "Unlawful" demonstrations. Probably difficult to derive one. They might charge trespass, but it's public property designated for assembly, so that won't work. Not disorderly conduct if protected speech and of not blocking traffic without a lawful basis. There is no offense for demonstrating without a permit. They can't give a dispersal order absent illegal activity, which they could try to argue, but problematic. So one of two things would happen: They would violently disperse the demo, in which case we would challenge the policy, or they would make illegal arrests, in which case, if the County or City charges them, we would end up challenging the policy through the criminal cases and state court system, possibly on appeal. Either way, we challenge the regs.

> Do people have to get arrested in order to bring this kind of challenge?

DH: I believe the primary problem with the proposed rule changes is that the new rules would give police officers an excuse to decide which spontaneous gatherings of persons (without permits) are acceptable, and which will be dispersed with threatened or actual police violence. I cannot see what other use they would be.

LH: Agreed, which makes them unconstitutionally overbroad. Which they are by definition if they give the police the discretion to decide what demonstrations to allow and which not to.

WIP: In one possible reading of the rule changes proposed in 430 and 440, it is possible to conclude, and General Adminstrations argues, that these rule changes actually loosen the permitting process because under the changed rules no permit would be required for a group of less than 25 people and the current rules would require a permit for a smaller group. GA staff person Jim Erskine has explained that "GA has begun the rulemaking process on how the agency will consider appropriate time, place and manner criteria in evaluating and approving requests for use of the public areas of the [C]apitol buildings and grounds. The new chapter – 236-17 WAC - requires GA to make some technical adjustments to WAC 236-12-430 and 440." So it appears that any discussion of the changes proposed in 430 and 440 needs to take place in the context of the new WAC Chapter 236-17. Have either of you reviewed 236-17?

DH: Yes - I have reviewed all of 236-17, which is the text of the "proposed rules" in its entirety. I focused on the part which I saw as a change, the last two parts of that rule (the parts where some lines are crossed out and some changes made obvious).

These are the parts WAC 236-12-430 and WAC 236-12-440 and they re-state other sections of the proposed rules.

I consider it unconstitutional to adopt a rule which states: "A permit is required for free speech and assembly activities that are reasonably expected to involve twenty-five or more people…" at WAC 236-17-100 in the proposed rules. To say that one needs to obtain a permit to exercise such a right is contrary to the very notion that it is a right. A permit is an opportunity for the Government to say "No." Any such opportunity prior to free speech assembly is therefore prior restraint, and this is something which must meet very high standards of legitimate government interest, with *no* alternatives available to government for avoiding the harm which is prevented by such prior restraint. No argument is made in the law that such an arbitrary number is necessary, only that it is convenient. Had this rule applied explicitly only to *non*-First Amendment activity (commercial activity, for instance) then this rule might be made valid.

Not much more to say, once that fails. It's the entire point of the new rule in my reading of it.

WIP: I certainly have that same view, so I asked staff at General Administration the following questions: How do you reconcile this language from 236-17-100:

"A permit is required for free speech and assembly activities that are reasonably expected to involve twenty-five or more people" with the First Amendment that states: "Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the government for a redress of grievances."

If something is a right guaranteed in the Bill of Rights, is there any reason to think that a government agency can impose a permit process on that right?

What will future demonstrations look like under the new rules? Photo effect by Mike Coday.

Steve Valandra, GA: I am responding to your recent questions about General Administration's proposed rules for exhibits and displays on the Capitol Campus in Olympia.

General Administration is committed to preserving Constitutional guarantees of free expression. Our interim policy and proposed rules represent that commitment. The department has received legal guidance from the attorney general's office throughout the process.

WIP: I asked the Attorney General's Office to reconcile WAC 236-17-100 with the First Amendment and Communications Director Janelle Guthrie responded with this:

"The proposed permit rule is less restrictive than the previous GA policy requiring permits for activities on the [C]apitol [C]ampus. Past policy required permits to reserve specific times and locations for all free speech and assembly activities, regardless of the number of people involved--and required four days advance notice instead of the newly proposed two-day requirement.

"The permit process benefits both the public and the government by:

· Allowing groups to reserve access to specific times and locations (preventing two large groups from competing for access to the Capitol steps for competing rallies for example).

· Helping GA better plan for large groups who might need parking, traffic or other special accommodations.

"It's important to note that the permit restriction is not a content-based restriction but instead deals with the time, place and manner of the event. As I noted previously, courts have consistently upheld authority of government to impose reasonable time, place and manner limitations on free speech and assembly in government buildings and on government property. There are a number of cases on point and if you do a simple search for "time, place and manner" and "First Amendment", you'll find them. In fact, Wikipedia has a good article about the issue and there are a number of legal articles that come up when you conduct a search."

WIP: It's clear that GA and the AG's Office are committed to these rule changes and that they do not recognize that this extensive rule-making continues the erosion of critical First Amendment rights and sets the stage for law enforcement to crack down on free speech demonstrations and assemblies. So unless GA is forced to start over and redraft the existing rules and the proposed rules I think we are going to see these rules enacted. So where do we go from here? What can citizens do to help General Administration understand that the First Amendment rights are not subject to a permit, that they are an almost absolute right in public spaces like Sylvester Park, Heritage Park and Capitol Lake grounds? Do people have to get arrested in order to bring this kind of challenge? I guess time will tell.

Kingsbury pollsters sink to new low

Deceptive, negative approach from struggling campaign emerges in City Council showdown

by Mike Coday

A lot of Olympia voters were on the receiving end of an automated robo-call campaign on Sept. 21 regarding the Buxbaum – Kingsbury race for City Council. The robo-call development brought a quick response from the Buxbaum campaign that questioned the truth of statements made in the recorded calls and also said "This kind of negative campaigning is unworthy of Olympia."

I suppose a lot of folks wondered how the Kingsbury campaign would react to the primary election results which suggested that Kingsbury's close association with the Triway development of the Isthmus had become a serious electoral liability. This development suggests the Kingsbury campaign has decided to go negative with the goal of bringing their candidate's hopes back to life. Guarav Oberoi of Precision Polling has confirmed that Precision Polling was the vendor for the push poll and identified Win Power Strategies of Seattle as the political consulting firm that designed the poll. *The Olympian* has reported the State Public Disclosure Commission has declined to investigate a complaint by Buxbaum supporter Hal Spencer that this phone poll constituted an unlawful advertisement because it failed to to disclose that it was paid for by the Kingsbury campaign. The website for Win Power Strategies states: "The partners at WinPower have over 40 years of campaign experience at every level of the ballot — from US Senator to Congress to State Legislature to Water Commissioner and everything in between. We love working with great candidates and organizations to promote social change, protect our environment and win power for the progressive movement." I asked the principals at Win Power Strategies the following questions: Do you understand that in choosing to work with Kingsbury to develop a negative campaign against Buxbaum that you have chosen sides in a development battle for the Olympia Isthmus? Do you recognize that Kingsbury has been the beneficiary of a significant amount of financial support from the developers who are trying to develop the Olympia waterfront at the expense of the environment and against the will of the vast majority of Olympia progressives? Do you realize that in the present circumstances you are likely being paid with developer dollars for your work for Jeff Kingsbury? Are you OK with that?

> Olympia voters were on the receiving end of an automated robo-call campaign regarding the Buxbaum – Kingsbury race for City Council.

Progressives who want to communicate with WinPower Strategies can send an email to info@winpowerstrategies.com to reach John Wyble, Michael King and Chris McCullough to discuss the goals of progressives.

This race has potential to get ugly in the last month if the Kingsbury campaign commits to a negative campaign to try to retain the City Council position. *Works in Progress* has not been able to confirm a rumor that the Kingsbury campaign is readying an onslaught of bumper stickers with the message: Kingsbury for Triway and Olympia.

OK, on to actual races:

Here we go, down the home stretch for the local elections. These are important elections that could reasonably be expected to affect local decisions and policies for the next couple of years. We have the opportunity on Nov. 2 to elect some responsive folks to City Council and the County Commission. Here is the way the elections lay out:

Olympia City Council Seat #4:

Karen Rogers – Opposes the Isthmus rezone and promises to be a responsive council person

Karen Veldheer – Also opposes the Isthmus rezone, a community organizer!

A couple of good candidates.

Incumbent Karen Messmer is not running for re-election, as previously reported.

City Council Seat #5:

Stephen Buxbaum – Opposes the Isthmus rezone

Elected incumbent Jeff Kingsbury – Supports Isthmus rezone and development.

Kingsbury enjoys the support of the vast majority of Triway employees, past and present, and is also supported by Kevin McManus, local fact-checker, who is known to occasionally read this dreck.

City Council Seat #6:

Jeannine Dellwo Roe – Opposes the rezone

Appointed incumbent Joan Machlis – Supports Isthmus rezone and development

The Isthmus rezone position is probably a good indicator for whether a candidate is likely to be more responsive to citizens' or business interests. We wish Jeannine well in this race; business has been over-represented on the Council in the recent past.

City Council Seat #7:

Tony Sermonti – Supports Isthmus rezone and development

Elected incumbent Joe Hyer – Opposes Isthmus development weakly

Works in Progress expects that Joe Hyer will be re-elected in this race. He has recently stated that he has been persuaded that an Isthmus Park is feasible.

County Commissioner Race District 3:

Incumbent Karen Valenzuela was appointed as Commissioner in January 2009 and is running against Pat Beehler. Valenzuela was a Tumwater City Council member prior to the appointment to the County Commission. She is a strong voice for environmental issues. Beehler is supported strongly by realtors and builders. You connect the dots, kemosabe.

Mike Coday is a small business owner and long time activist for civil rights, demilitarization, economic and social justice. He participates in WIP editorial meetings.

Trashed livelihoods

Cairo's contentious relationship with its most industrious dwellers

by Marta Bruce

The heat of that May afternoon hung heavily like a cashmere shawl draped across Cairo's forehead.

Our taxi crunched along the garbage-strewn streets, purring and coughing like one of the thousands of alley cats that call Cairo's labyrinthine streets their home. At the edge of Manshiet Nasr the cab driver stopped, refusing to drive any further into the slums.

"We walk from here," Osman, our friend and guide told us. He handed my friend and me disposable health masks as we picked our way through several inches of oozing refuse, in the direction of the Moqattam hills, the heart of Zabbaleen territory. We walked quietly through the rank smell of decaying garbage, walking with the knowledge that earlier that morning this very neighborhood had seen violent rioting and unrest, a reaction to the government's decision to kill every pig in Egypt.

The Zabbaleen, or "people of the garbage," as their name roughly translates in Arabic, have lived in this southeastern corner of Cairo for more than sixty years. Long before Cairo's sprawling suburbs and informal housing projects began edging up to the pyramids of Giza, the Zabbaleen have lived and worked in Manshiet Nasr, making a livelihood out of Cairo's discard.

At the end of the 19th Century, migrant workers from all over Egypt flocked by the thousands to its major urban center, whose industrialization promised employment and opportunity. Among these were the Wahiya people of Upper Egypt, who bred pigs and collected the organic waste of the city, dried it in the sun, and resold it as cooking and heating fuel.

By the 1930's, as heating oil began to replace organic fuel in Cairene homes, the Wahiya made a partnership with a group of newcomers, the Zarraba people, or "the collectors." The two groups worked together to scour Cairo's streets for recyclable materials to collect, repair, and resell. Gradually the distinctions between the two peoples blurred, and they merged to form the Zabbaleen.

Coptic Christians whose religious traditions allow them to consume pork, unlike their Muslim neighbors, the Zabbaleen made use of the adaptability of pigs to an urban environment, and the swine became an essential link in the waste management cycle.

Fed food scraps and other organic wastes, the pigs provided dung for fertilizer and an important food source to the community. They could also be housed in small quarters, usually the ground floor of the family home.

Every morning the Zabbaleen traverse the wealthier neighborhoods such as Zamalek, collecting waste in donkey carts and small trucks, and bringing it all back home, where women and children sort it into sixteen distinct categories of trash. Glass, metal, cloth, plastic, and paper is separated and often transformed into handicrafts such as quilts, pots, rugs, and paper stationary which are resold to tourists. Organic wastes are fed to the pigs, goats, poultry and cats, leaving only a small percentage of real trash that goes to desert landfills outside of Cairo.

With its 18-22 million residents, Cairo produces some 10,000 tons of refuse a day, about 60-80 percent of which is collected by the Zabbaleen and municipal collectors. Boasting the highest recycling rate of any city in the world, at an 80 percent recovery rate, Cairo's Zabbaleen workers easily outdo many western recycling systems, which only manage around 65 percent. The secret is recycling every bag of garbage by hand, instead of compacting it by machine, a process that usually ends in a landfill. Urbanite Egyptians only generate an average 0.7 kg of trash per day (mild compared to the United States average of 2.5 kg per day), but the sheer numbers of Cairenes make waste management no small matter for municipal officials.

The history of relations between the government of Cairo and the Zabbaleen has been contentious, to say the least.

Since the minority group began squatting in Manshiet Nasr, the government has tried every possible scheme to evict them, but they've held their ground. Without a formal garbage collection system, the government realized that the city depends on the Zabbaleen's livelihood and grudgingly allowed them to continue providing this important service, but not without constant pressure to modernize their methods.

During the 1970's and 1980's under Anwar Sadat's Infitah, or "open-door" policy, which opened Egypt to westernization and foreign investment, Egypt hired three foreign waste management companies, FCC and Urbaser of Spain, and AMA of Italy. They were awarded a contract of 80 million Egyptian Pounds per year, renewable for fifteen years, despite a major public outcry from Cairenes, who saw the foreign companies as expensive and inefficient compared to the Zabbaleen. Many argued that the foreign companies' mechanized system was more environmentally taxing than the Zabbaleen's donkey carts and hand sorting methods. The BBC reported that the Zabbaleen are "more environmentally friendly than the mechanised garbage crushing trucks from Europe that the municipality brought in about ten years ago.

> Boasting the highest recycling rate of any city in the world, Cairo's Zabbaleen workers easily outdo many western recycling systems.

Once rubbish has been mechanically compressed, no recycling is possible. It can only be dumped." Cairenes were also disgruntled at the new waste collection tax that was levied to help pay for the foreign waste management contract.

The Zabbaleen have continued to collect, process, and recycle Cairo's refuse despite the threat of being outbid by foreign waste management companies. Part of their success lies in being able to traverse Cairo's narrow, winding streets with donkey carts, where foreign dump trucks can't navigate. This May, however, the government of Cairo dealt a staggering blow to the Zabbaleen community. With the outbreak of Influenza A H1N1, commonly referred to as "swine flu" by the public media, Egyptian health officials ordered a cull of every pig in Egypt, about 300,000 pigs, most of which belong to the Zabbaleen community.

The government's reaction to kill the pigs was partly a measure to calm fears of a major pandemic, as memories are still fresh of Egypt's impact from the Avian Flu H5N1 virus a few years ago. The kill order was highly criticized by global health experts who claimed the decision had no scientific basis. Dr. Keiji Fukuda, of the World Health Organization, insisted that "we see no evidence that anyone is getting infected from pigs."

Many saw the kill order as a direct attack on the Zabbaleen community by the government, a final blow after years of tension.

Barsoum Girgis, a 26-year-old hog farmer, expressed his dismay at the decision, "the government here is going after our livelihood. These pigs are perfectly healthy. How am I going to feed my children and send them to school without my livestock?"

> Ever since the foreign waste management companies were brought in to replace the Zabbaleen, conditions have been degenerating.

Seen as a highly political decision targeting the Zabbaleen community and particularly their Christian traditions and lifestyle, the kill order sparked fierce rioting in Manshiet Nasr and other Zabbaleen areas of Cairo. In the shadow of the Moqattam Cliffs, angry pig herders threw stones and bottles at police, and were met with teargas and rubber bullets. One police car was torched and its doors ripped off, and volleys of rocks were hurled down onto police barricades from protestors atop the cliffs.

Despite promises by the government to compensate farmers for their pigs, farmers were angry at the huge losses they would sustain by the kill order. There was also bitter outcry at the inhumanity of the cull, because although the government had promised to use humane methods to dispose of the swine, reports came back indicating the contrary. Reporters from the Egyptian newspaper Al Masry Al Youm witnessed pigs being frontloaded by the hundreds onto dump trucks, and then buried alive in pits of quick lime and other chemicals in what the government referred to as "rapid hygienic disposal." There were also reports of piglets being stabbed and beaten, and left to die in piles in the sun.

Many Muslim clerics condemned the inhumane disposal, citing that Islam promotes humane slaughter techniques (known as "Dhabiha").

Rioters expressed their anger and dismay at the government's failure to deliver on promises of reimbursement and freezing the meat so that it could be consumed. During the course of the riots at least twenty people were arrested, and are still imprisoned without legal representation.

Many Zabbaleen are uncertain about their futures—losing their livestock and much of their garbage collection routes has jeopardized their ability to provide for their families. The government has made it clear that it wants the Zabbaleen to relocate outside the city limits, out of sight of tourists and away from attractions like the Pyramids. As Cairo's population grows and the city expands, the slums become more prominent with the smell and sight of 30-foot high piles of garbage. Additionally there is no sewage system in the slums, and running water is only available after midnight, so diseases like hepatitis are prevalent among the Zabbaleen.

The future looks bleak for the Zabbaleen, and for Cairo.

Without the ingenuity, hard work, and creativity of the "people of the garbage," Cairo would be, simply put, in a heap of trouble. Already many long-time residents of the great city have noticed the trash piling up over the years, and Cairo's sidewalks are getting harder to navigate. Ever since the foreign waste management companies were brought in to replace the Zabbaleen, conditions have been degenerating. Egypt's treatment of the Zabbaleen over the years is symptomatic of a grander picture of (western initiated) neo-liberal reforms that effectively dispossess local farmers, craftspeople, fisherfolk, and workers, as contracts are awarded to foreign investors, causing local economies to wither and even dry up.

The further commodification of processes that previously had been done efficiently and creatively by local people, and can now be replaced by more expensive foreign companies, is a trend happening around the world. Hopefully the Zabbaleen will hold their ground and continue transforming waste into treasure, and Cairo can remain the world's most recycled city. Visiting the Zabbaleen community in Manshiet Nasr was a startling experience that changed the way I think about trash. It made me pause to consider my own role in the waste cycle of the universe, and to try much harder to reduce my rate of consumption.

Marta Bruce is a senior at Evergreen, studying political economy, environmental justice, and languages. She just returned from three months of travel through the Middle East.

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Lights and Sirens

by Mike Coday

Local news

An Olympia police officer shot and killed a man in Providence St. Peter Hospital's emergency room on August 15th after the man reportedly became agitated and drew a weapon. Joseph Leonard Burkett, 43, died at the hospital after being shot once by a 13-year veteran of the Olympia Police Department. The police shooter is believed to be Officer Christopher Cook. Rolf Boone at *The Olympian* is covering the story.

Number of Olympia Police Department officers who have killed someone since the late 1980's = five (out of 74). Number who have gone to trial for any of these killings = zero. Seven officers have been involved in incidents where a suspect death occurred. One officer was involved in two incidents where a suspect death occurred. One officer involved in suspect death incident is no longer on the force. *[Statistics from Drew Hendricks of Olympia Copwatch.]*

U.S. District Judge Robert Bryan ruled Sept. 8 that a lawsuit against the City of Olympia for excessive use of force at the Port of Olympia demonstrations in November 2007 can move forward. Trial is expected to begin Oct. 26. Attorney Christopher Taylor for the plaintiffs said the ruling shows the city is not paying attention to what its constitutional obligations are when responding to protests and is quoted in *The Olympian* saying, "These are not rogue cops that went a little too far. These officers were instructed to do roughly what they did." *The Olympian* is covering this story.

Is it time for Olympia Police Chief Gary Michel to lose his job if he can't get the Olympia Police Department in line? Does the buck stop anywhere for the Oly PD?

Regional news

Spokane police officers could face criminal charges over the city's handling of the fatal confrontation with unarmed janitor Otto Zehm in March 2006. Assistant U.S. Attorney Tim Durkin has filed documents that suggest police and city officials have misled the public and others about what happened the night of March 18, when Zehm was beaten with a police baton, shocked with a Taser, and hogtied by a half-dozen officers before lapsing into a coma and dying two days later. Federal prosecutors say Officer Karl F. Thompson Jr.'s attack on Zehm included baton strikes to the head. Head strikes are universally considered lethal force. The *Spokane Spokesman-Review* is covering this story.

Security planners for the 2010 Winter Olympics in Vancouver, British Columbia continue to refuse to rule out the use of agents provocateur to incite protestors to commit illegal acts. Go to no2010.com for more details

Taser News International

On Aug. 18-19, two Lancaster, Ohio police officers wielding tasers set a homeless man, Daniel Wood, on fire briefly. Mr. Wood was reported to have been inhaling a chemical spray prior to being ignited. Officers patted out the fire and Wood was not seriously injured. Taser International spokesman Steve Tuttle described the Lancaster incident as "beyond freakish." Columbus Dispatch has more details.

A Fort Worth, Texas man, Michael Patrick Jacobs Jr., died by police taser in April when his family called for help when he became combative. Jacobs was stunned twice, once for 49 seconds and the second time for 5 seconds. He had trouble breathing after being handcuffed and was pronounced dead at a local hospital at the end of this police call. Jacobs is reported to have been schizophrenic. Forth Worth, Texas medical examiner has ruled the death a homicide. Fort Worth police have used the taser 1360 times with 4 deaths. Jacobs is the first of these deaths to be ruled a homicide. The *Fort Worth Star Telegram* has the story.

Let's all be careful out there.

G20 protests don't live up to 1999

by Mac Lojowsky

In the fall of 1999, over 50,000 activists from all over the world gathered in the streets of Seattle to protest the World Trade Organization. Those three days of protest effectively shut down the meeting and marked a watershed moment in the modern global justice movement. Olympia resident Mac Lojowsky traveled this fall to Pittsburgh for the G20 Summit meeting to witness the North America's global justice movement ten years later. A more in-depth version of this article is available at maclojowsky.blogspot.com.

On Sept. 24-25, the G20 met at the David L. Lawrence Convention Center in Pittsburgh, PA to discuss the state of global financial markets. Outside of the Convention Center (and three block radius closed "security perimeter"), over fifty different citizen groups, including the United Steel Workers of America, Iraq Veterans Against the War, Free Tibet, Free Palestine, Pittsburgh G20 Resistance Project, Thomas Merton Center, Greenpeace, the Raging Grannies, CODEPINK, and numerous others came together to raise their objections to the G20 and offer their voices for a different future.

The G20 consists of the US, Canada, Russia, China, UK, Saudi Arabia, India, France, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, Mexico, South Africa, South Korea, Turkey, Argentina, Australia, Brazil, as well as the European Central Bank, the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank. Together, these countries and institutions make up 85 percent of the world's economy.

Global justice events in Pittsburgh began over the summer with numerous teach-ins, including street medic trainings, G20 and globalization information workshops, Indymedia workshops, as well as countless other informal workshops and gatherings. Main organizers of the events were the Thomas Merton Center (thomasmertoncenter.org) and the Pittsburgh G20 Resistance Project (resistg20.org).

> Not noted in that article or other published estimates were the number of federal agents or private security officers on hand.

In the days leading up to the Summit, Pittsburgh was awash in global justice events. There was a People's Summit over three days, an International Peace, Justice & Empowerment Summit over two days, Bail Out the People marches, Women's Peace Initiative marches, the Three Rivers Climate Convergence and tent city, Poets on Loose, G20-Fight AIDS marches as well as a large-scale concert on Wednesday night. Pittsburgh Indymedia set up a 24-hour live web-streaming and radio broadcast during the week, called the G-Infinity Project (indypgh.org).

Also in the days leading up to the Summit, police, state troopers, National Guardsmen, DEA, FBI, Border Patrol and Secret Service agents, as well as private security firms (such as Texas-based Densus Group and Washington DC-based Civitas Group LLC) descended upon the city of Pittsburgh. Police from New York, Maryland, Virginia, Illinois, Georgia, Michigan, Kentucky and Ohio arrived.

Although exact numbers of law-enforcement agents are at this time unavailable, the Wall Street Journal reported (Sept. 11) that 4,000 police and 2,000 National Guard were expected. Not noted in that article or other published estimates were the number of federal agents or private security officers on hand. According to the Pittsburgh mayor's office, the total cost for "security" reached $19.5 million dollars.

G20 Summit Day 1

On the morning of Sept. 24, the city of Pittsburgh was a ghost town. All the public and Catholic schools were closed as were most downtown businesses. Most city, state and federal offices, museums, banks and universities also closed. Almost every single business in downtown was boarded up in plywood. Public transportation service was canceled in many areas and most roads downtown were closed to vehicle traffic.

In addition to the closed three block radius "security perimeter," almost every single intersection within two miles of downtown was heavily guarded by an assortment of armored personnel carriers, German Shepard police dogs, camouflaged Humvees, mounted cops, motorcycle cops, bicycle cops, "riot fences" as well as walls of assorted law enforcement officers dressed in full, black riot gear. Numerous helicopters flew low overhead.

Secret Service spokesman Special Agent Darrin Blackford explains, "We tried very hard to create a sense that Pittsburgh did not have to shut down for the G-20…but I think the momentum was so strong that people just decided to shut down." (Newsday, Sept. 21)

About three miles from downtown, in the Lawrenceville area, at 2:30 p.m., the Pittsburgh G20 Resistance Project unpermitted march began from Arsenal Park. As the G20 Resistance Project stated on their webpage,

"At this time in history, with the very architects of the global financial collapse gathering in our city, we need events that start from the premise that it is people who matter, not permits. Our decision to not ask for permission from the system we protest has much to do with our belief that our future lies in community-based solutions, in power from below, in putting justice before law, and in a rejection of the G-20 as a legitimate body for decision-making. We build, not beg."

At 2:30, 500 or so protesters (mostly dressed in black) left the park and entered the streets, beginning a chaotic march through Lawrenceville. At every intersection, arguments erupted from march participants about which direction to march. Some wanted to head downtown, while others wanted to march to various corporate offices. The end result was a disjointed and confused mass of folks who marched right into a solid police line within five blocks. The police ordered the marchers to disperse, then began firing tear gas, rubber bullets, concussion grenades and a new crowd-control device: ear-piercing siren sounds. With the first volleys of tear gas, the main bulk of the march split into five or six different directions and never again regained its original number of 500. The remainder of the afternoon was spent with smaller and smaller groups of protesters running from the police from one street to the next, miles away from downtown.

That evening President Obama, French President Sarkozy, Russian President Medvedev and other G20 dignitaries dined at Phipps Conservatory and Botanical Gardens. The protesters smashed a PNC Bank ATM, kicked in a window at Kentucky Fried Chicken and tossed a rock through a Boston Market Chicken and a BMW dealership; 19 arrests were made.

> "For example, most of the people I know who were working on anti-globalization are now doing serious work in the immigration movement."

Day 2

After months of delays from the Secret Service and the City of Pittsburgh, the Thomas Merton Center at last secured a permit a week prior to the Summit to hold The People's March. To get this permit, the ACLU was forced to sue the City and the Secret Service on behalf of the Thomas Merton Center and twelve other groups. The resulting permit was for a significantly modified route well away from the closed "security perimeter."

The march began at noon at the corner of Craft Ave. & 5th, with speakers from the Thomas Merton Center, Tibetan Youth Congress, Jubilee Zambia, Code Pink Pittsburgh, Palestine Solidarity Committee, Iraq Veterans Against the War, United Steel Workers, Indigenous Environmental Network, African-American Workers Union as well as music from the Raging Grannies and Anne Feeney.

Despite a march population of around 7,000, there was easily one officer/agent for every marcher. The front of the march was led by motorcycle cops, escorted on both sidewalks by riot cops spaced about four feet apart, and followed at the rear by armored personnel carriers, German Shepherd K-9's and mounted police.

In the face of the extreme police presence, the march was well-organized, well-paced and was an impressive display of the diverse components of the global justice movement. The Free Tibet contingent carrying large bright yellow Tibetan flags was immediately followed by marchers with large green and red Palestinian flags. The Steel Workers marched with Jubilee folks and yesterday's black-clad protesters got boxed in by the Falun Gong contingent.

The march slowly snaked its orderly way down 5th Avenue, down Grant to the steps of the City County Building. The riot police slowly brought up the rear in a solid wall of plexiglass shields spanning the street, building to building, four rows deep, sweeping any lagging marchers. The march continued across the river, ending quietly at East Park a few hours later.

I caught up with Luis A. Fernandez, author of *Policing Dissent: Social Control and the Anti-Globalization Movement*, and professor of criminology at Northern Arizona University to ask him his take on the G20 Protests and the global justice movement ten years later:

"It is difficult to draw conclusions about the Global Justice Movement (GJM) from the number of individuals who protested the G20 in Pittsburgh. The movement spans several continents, with individuals focused on multiple and diverse issues. This means that while the numbers in Pittsburgh may be low, the number of people protesting and working on other issues across the globe is still high. So the movement in general is going strong in Europe, where thousands protested the G20 in London not too long ago. And the protests against the G8 have been well attended consistently across Europe.

"So for me the question is not what the numbers say about the movement. A better question may be, where are the people that protested the WTO in 1999? The answer, I assume, is that they are still doing amazing work, but perhaps the work looks very different than it did in 1999. For example, most of the people I know who were working on anti-globalization issues are now doing some serious, on-the-ground work in the immigration movement, where migrants are being criminalized and prosecuted on a daily basis for doing nothing other than work.

"It could be the case that people in the Global Justice Movement in the U.S. are not seeing the G20 as the appropriate location for struggle. However, it could also be the case that police presence has made demonstrating much more costly, thus reducing the numbers who end up in the street."

The streets of Pittsburgh in 2009 were a far cry from the streets of Seattle in 1999. There were about 45,000 less people protesting on the streets of Pittsburgh, and there was probably about 10,000 more law enforcement officials than on the streets of Seattle.

The real lessons of Pittsburgh will take time and reflection to appropriately understand. As Fernandez points out, where are the 50,000 people that gathered in Seattle? What are they doing now? It is also clear at this point that our tactics as activists need refinement. Neither the current "anarchist" model, nor the same old "accepted" model of protest made any headway against the police or the G20. If the state already shuts down a city, what do the protesters have left to do?

Army Prisoners Isolated at Fort Lewis, Denied Right to Legal Counsel

by Dahr Jamail

Note: This article was originally posted on truthout.org on Sept. 30.

Afghanistan war resister Travis Bishop has been held largely "incommunicado" in the Northwest Joint Regional Correctional Facility at Fort Lewis, Washington.

Bishop, who is being held by the military as a "prisoner of conscience," according to Amnesty International, was transported to Fort Lewis on Sept. 9 to serve a 12-month sentence in the Regional Correctional Facility. He had refused orders to deploy to Afghanistan based on his religious beliefs, and had filed for Conscientious Objector (CO) status.

Bishop, who served a 13-month deployment to Iraq and was stationed at Fort Hood, Texas, was court-martialed by the Army for his refusal to deploy to Afghanistan. Given that he had already filed for CO status, many local observers called his sentencing a "politically driven prosecution."

By holding Bishop incommunicado, the military violated Bishop's legal right to counsel, a violation of the Sixth Amendment to the US Constitution, according to his civil defense attorney James Branum.

The Sixth Amendment is the part of the Bill of Rights that sets forth rights related to criminal prosecutions in federal courts, and reads, "In all criminal prosecutions, the accused shall enjoy the right to a speedy and public trial, by an impartial jury of the State and district where in the crime shall have been committed, which district shall have been previously ascertained by law, and to be informed of the nature and cause of the accusation; to be confronted with the witnesses against him; to have compulsory process for obtaining witnesses in his favor, and to have the Assistance of Counsel for his defense."

Attorney LeGrande Jones, who practices in Olympia and was designated by Branum as the local counsel for Bishop, was also denied access to Bishop, on the grounds that Jones was on an unnamed and unobtainable "watch-list," which constitutes deprivation of counsel.

Jones was denied entry to Fort Lewis and told he would never be allowed to enter the base. Fort Lewis authorities never gave him a reason for his being denied access to the base and his client. To this, Branum told Truthout, "Fort Lewis authorities have a duty to tell LeGrande the reasons why he is being barred from Fort Lewis, and therefore [barred] from communicating with his client in the Fort Lewis brig."

Until Sept. 18, Bishop's condition was unclear due to his having been completely cut off from the public.

Branum, who is the legal adviser to the Oklahoma GI Rights Hotline and co-chair of the Military Law Task Force, also represents Leo Church, another war resister being held at Fort Lewis.

Church, who was also stationed at Fort Hood, went AWOL (Absent Without Leave) to prevent his wife and children from becoming homeless. The fact that he was unable to financially support his family off his military pay alone dictated that Church seek other means to support them. With his pleas to the military for assistance going unheeded, he opted to go AWOL in order to support his dependents.

According to Branum, "Church received eight months jail time because he put the safety and welfare of his children over his obligation to the Army. Leo tried to get help from his unit, but was denied."

Branum told *Truthout* that Church had been able to contact him while at Fort Lewis, but the call was monitored by a guard, violating his attorney-client privilege.

Gerry Condon, with Project Safe Haven (an advocacy group for GI resisters in Canada), and a veteran himself as a member of the Greater Seattle Veterans for Peace, told *Truthout* he believes Bishop and Church are being held in a way that is both "intolerable and unconstitutional."

Condon, who is working to try to support both Bishop and Church, told *Truthout*, "They are denied all visitors, except for immediate family, clergy and legal counsel [legal counsel is limited at this time]. No friends or fiancés. This is not the normal practice at other brigs."

Branum told *Truthout* he feels that how Bishop and Church are being treated at Fort Lewis is "part of a broader pattern the military has of just throwing people in jail and not letting them talk to their attorneys, not let visitors come, and this is outrageous. In the civilian world even murderers get visits from their friends."

Speaking further of the conditions in which the military is holding Bishop and Church, Condon added, "Fort Lewis authorities have made it virtually impossible for Bishop and Church to make phone calls. They must first get money on their calling account. This must be done by money order and according to several other similarly prohibitive procedures. And the money may not be credited to the account until a month after it is received. Plus, officials at the Fort Lewis brig must approve the names of people that can be called."

Condon told *Truthout*, "Travis Bishop is a leader in what has become an international GI resistance movement that is attempting to bring troops home from both occupations by following their consciences and international law. They deserve all the support we can give them, especially while they are in prison - they are owed their constitutional liberties."

Branum told *Truthout* that as far as he knows, he may well be the only person on Bishop's call list.

Both Bishop and Church have been prevented from adding any names to their respective "authorized contacts" lists (even for family members), which effectively cuts them off from almost all contact with the outside world. According to Branum, mail and commissary funds sent by friends and supporters will likely be "returned to sender" due to what he feels is "a cruel and inhumane policy."

In addition, there are no work programs at the Fort Lewis brig, nor any classes available for soldiers to take while they are incarcerated. Generally, work programs and/or classes are available for incarcerated soldiers.

"By participating in work programs and school classes, soldiers being held in brigs can get time cut off their sentences," Branum explained to *Truthout*, "But these don't exist at Fort Lewis, so that means Travis and Leo can't get time taken off their sentences. Travis will do a minimum of 10 months, and could have theoretically worked an additional month off his sentence if Fort Lewis had these programs."

Branum, who is the lead attorney for both Bishop and Church, told *Truthout* the actions of officials at Fort Lewis violate his clients' constitutional rights.

"Bishop and Church's defense team and supporters are in the process of negotiating with Fort Lewis officials to ensure transparency and that Bishop and Church's legal rights are being met," Branum stated in a press release on the matter that was published on Sept. 17. "The unusual circumstances of isolation of these soldiers is unquestionably illegal. If Fort Lewis doesn't change its ways, we will be forced to go to court and demand justice."

On Sept. 18, officials at Fort Lewis finally allowed Branum to speak with Bishop on the telephone, but not privately.

Bishop was accompanied by two guards, who monitored his conversation with Branum. In addition, Fort Lewis authorities claimed that the recently rebuilt/remodeled brig does not yet have proper facilities to facilitate a private telephone conversation.

Speaking further about the conversation he was finally allowed to have with Bishop, Branum added, "In the phone call we did get to do, they still refused to let Travis talk to me privately. He actually had two guards in the room with him the entire time, which obviously negates any compliance with attorney-client privilege. And presumably the phone call was taped (all of the other brigs have special rooms for attorney calls, that have phone lines to the outside that are not taped) which is completely unconstitutional. The brig of course will say, "well we won't listen to that tape" but that is bullshit, and it is illegal."

"The only reason they [Fort Lewis authorities] let me talk to Travis on Friday [Sept. 18] was that he was finally "medically cleared," Branum told *Truthout*, "This took 10 days in this case, and it looks like this is their standard operating procedure, which is completely wrong."

When *Truthout* questioned the public affairs office at Fort Lewis about Bishop's situation, we were told all matters were being handled "legally, and according to standard operating procedure," and "any wrongdoing would be investigated."

Branum added, "They are giving the excuse that "we don't have the secure room for attorney phone calls set up yet," but can't tell me when they are going to have the room set up."

Branum and Jones are planning to file a lawsuit against Fort Lewis in the near future, specifically targeting the denial of attorney-client privilege.

Both soldiers are being supported by two GI resistance cafes: Under the Hood cafe (in Killeen, Texas, near Fort Hood) and Coffee Strong (in Tillicum).

Independent journalist Dahr Jamail is the author of "The Will to Resist: Soldiers Who Refuse to Fight in Iraq and Afghanistan," (Haymarket Books, 2009), and "Beyond the Green Zone: Dispatches From an Unembedded Journalist in Occupied Iraq," (Haymarket Books, 2007).

Letter from Janine Gates

To the Works in Progress Editors:

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Olympians regarding my recent bid for Olympia City Council Position 5. With three candidates in this race, nearly 70% of those voting were in favor of a change on the city council. I am thrilled to have been a significant part of that effort. While I am disappointed by the outcome of the primary vote, I am grateful for the opportunity this campaign gave me to help shape the debate on how our city government should function. I appreciate many supporters who made my campaign such a positive experience.

I am especially thankful to the thousands of voters who shared their ideas and concerns with me. I personally doorbelled nearly 4,500 homes, resulting in my having literally thousands of conversations with Olympians concerned about many issues. I am compiling the information I learned and will present this insight to current city council members and candidates. I am tremendously impressed with the thoughtfulness of our community members.

My campaign goal was to listen and be responsive to citizen concerns. Over the course of this race I have learned a great deal more about our city, its people, and our challenges. Although I am no longer a candidate, I remain committed to our community and look forward to putting that understanding to work as a smarter and even more effective community advocate.

Thank you,
Janine Gates
P.O. Box 7418
Olympia, WA 98507

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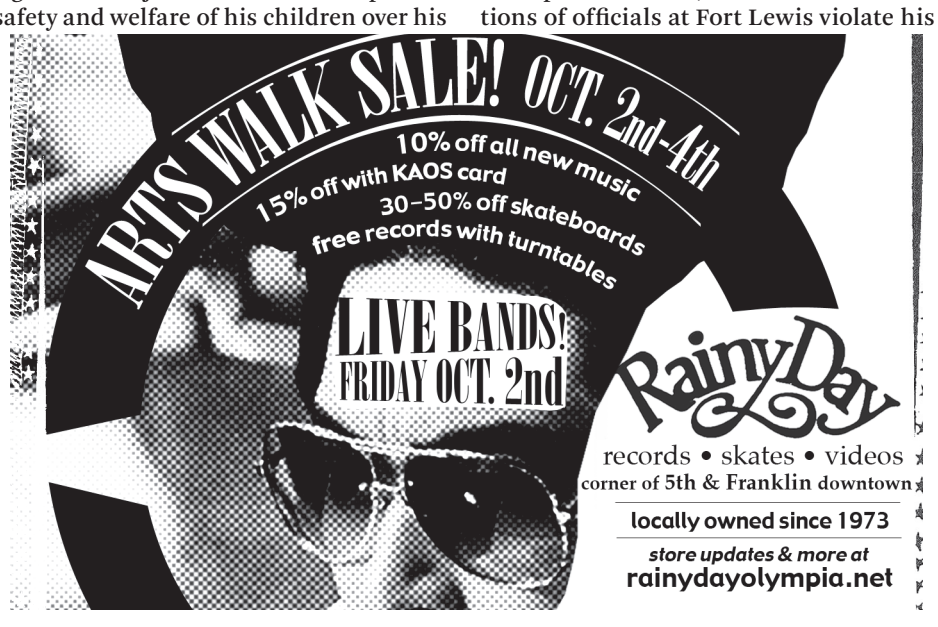
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Sincerely, Stephen

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